

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 are now pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, 17, 23, and 29 have been amended and new claims 30-35 have been added.

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiners McCulloch and Hotaling for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview on October 23, 2007. Proposed amendments to independent claims 1 and 23 were submitted on October 9, 2007 with Applicants' Interview Request Form. As indicated in the Interview Summary, the "Examiners agreed that proposed amendments, if submitted in a proper reply, would be adequate to overcome a 102 rejection in view of Berman." The proposed amendments have been made to claims 1 and 23.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 9-19, and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Berman. Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended according to the proposed claim amendments discussed during the telephone interview of October 23, 2007. Therefore, as indicated by the Interview Summary, claims 1 and 23, as amended, are no longer anticipated by Berman.

Similar to claims 1 and 23, independent claim 17 recites the steps of "concealing from the player the outcome to the wagering base game; providing a first award option to the player, the first award option displayed on a video display of the gaming machine; and in response to the first award option being exercised by the player, precluding the player from receiving winning credits associated with the outcome and awarding the first award option to the player." (emphases added.) As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is allowable for similar reasons as claims 1 and 23. In particular, Berman fails to teach or suggest concealing an outcome to a wagering base game from a player while also displaying a first award option to the player as recited in claim 17.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 17, and 23 are allowable. In addition, dependent claims 2-6, 9-16, 18-19, 21-22, and 24-29 are allowable at least for the same reasons as base claims 1, 17, and 23. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

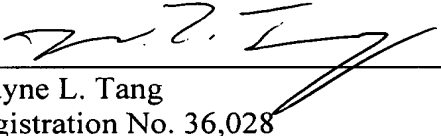
Claims 7, 20, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,855,514 to Kamille. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,569,015 to Baerlocher et al. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims 7, 8, 20, and 29 are allowable at least for the same reasons as base claims 1, 17, and 23. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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